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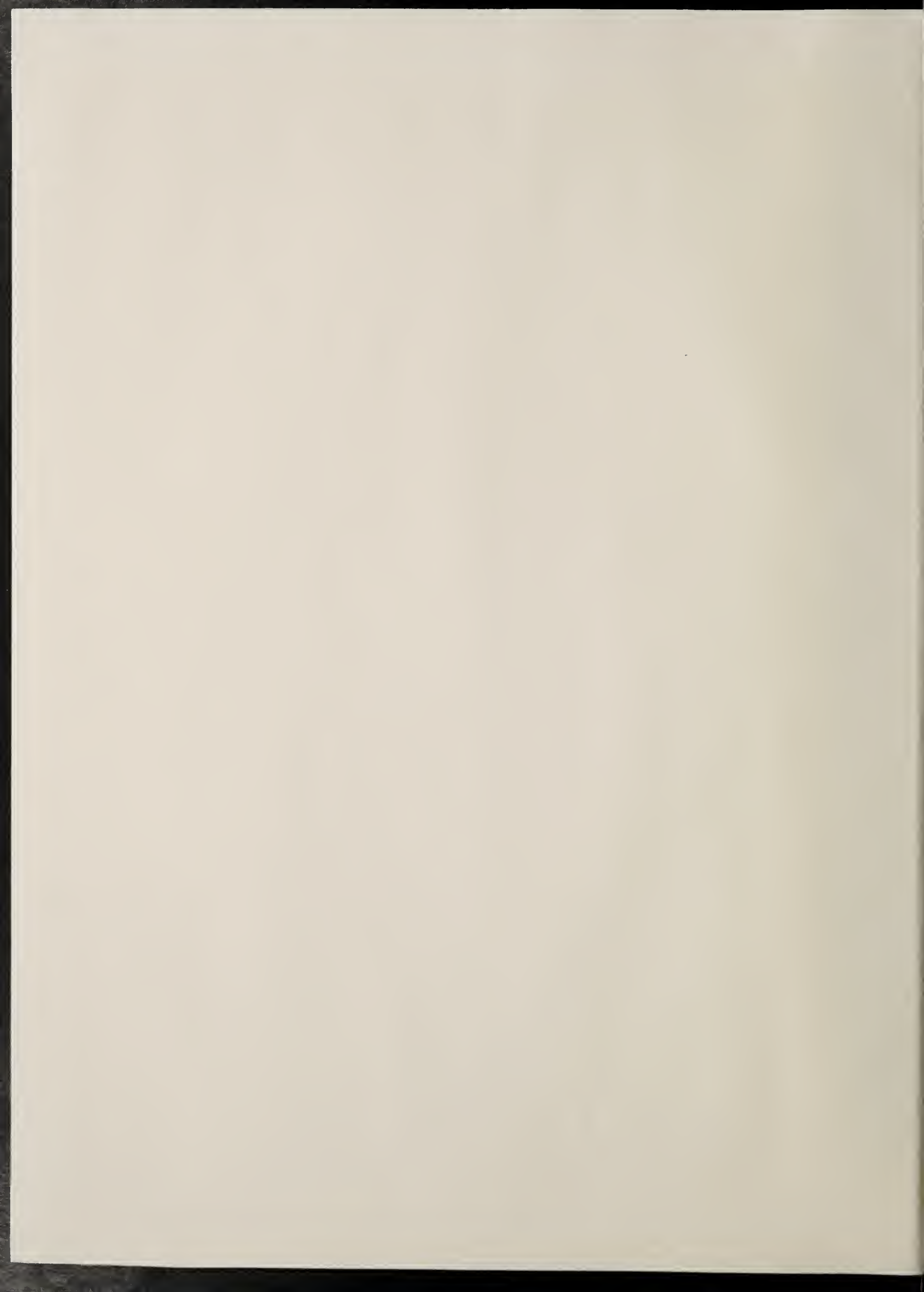
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HISTORY OF THE MILLER FAMILY

By

James N. Miller

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HISTORY OF THE MILLER FAMILY

By JAMES W. MILLER

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Some time in the first half of the 18th century, perhaps about 1730, SHEDRICK MILLER (the spelling of the first name is uncertain, and the last name was probably Muller or Mueller) emigrated from an unknown point in Germany to America, landing doubtless at Philadelphia. It is a tradition that he paid for his passage (in a sailing vessel) by working a certain time after his arrival in this country for some one to whom the owner of the vessel sold his time. He seems to have soon found his way to the Western part of Pennsylvania, for he died there, and was buried on a farm in Luzerne township, Fayette county, known as the Thornton farm, and also the Coldren farm, but the precise location of his grave is not known.

Little was known of him. While he was a German, the language was soon displaced by the English, and the spelling of the name was changed. His wife was a Crable, but when he married, how many children he had, and the date of his death are all alike unknown, nor is it likely that any of these facts could now be learned. He formed part of that early emigration of courageous spirits who came from the old world to the new, and helped to subdue the wild forest and the wilder Indians within the realm of the great Quaker, William Penn.

One son, SAMUEL, we know was born in 1748, and living to the ripe age of 84 years, died in 1827, and was buried in the Quaker graveyard at Brownsville (or Bridgeport), Pa. While he lived through the revolutionary war, there is no evidence that he took part in it--at least as a soldier, for he never received a pension. But from the fact that his sons were intense haters of the Tories, it is evident that his sympathies were with the colonists and against England. We believe it is true that not many of the settlers of Western Pennsylvania were soldiers in the revolutionary war, as they were distant from the field of operations, and were also largely occupied in defending their homes against the Indians.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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SAMUEL was married about the year 1773 to MARGARET DAVILSON, who was born in 1755, and survived her husband ten years, dying in 1837. We have no knowledge of her beyond this bare record, and that she was of Scottish descent.

These two acquired a farm on the west bank of Dunlap's creek, in Fayette County, Pa., some two miles above where the stream empties into the Monongahela river at Brownsville. The land was hilly and stony, and yielded but the scantiest subsistence with hard toil. They endured the privations of frontier life, lived, died, and were buried, filling well their part in the affairs of life, but leaving little record ~~behind~~ behind them.

To them were born thirteen children, as follows:

LYDIA, born in 1774, married to Crable, and after his death to Hibbs.

THOMAS, born in 1775. Moved to Ohio, near Columbus, where he married and had a large family. His wife was probably a Brashear.

JOHN, born in 1777. Married a Brashear, and moved to near New Philadelphia, Ohio, where he raised a large family.

SARAH, born in 1779. Married to Basil Brown.

AARON, born in 1780. Moved to Kentucky.

ANN NANCY (or NANCY ANN-, born in 1782, and married to Basil Brashear. She died about 1857, at Brownsville, Pa.

MOSES, born in 1785, died in 1859. (See sketch hereafter).

HADASSAH, born in 1787, married first to Ball, and after his death to John Stewart. She died about 1833, at Brownsville.

HIRAH, born in 1790, married to Cynthia Davidson, and died in 1867 at Monroe (Hopwood) near Uniontown, Pa.

MARY, born in 1796, married to William McDowell.

JOSEPH, born in 1797. He went to (West) Virginia, and soon died, probably from poisoning at a boarding house. He never married.

SAMUEL, born in 1799. Married to Drusilla Knight, and died in 1870, in Luzerne township. His widow survived him a few years, dying in 187-.

Of all these the writer knew only Moses (his father), Nancy Ann, Hadassah, Hiram and Samuel. The others, moving away, were soon lost sight of. It seems to be a family trait to seek new homes, and to lose attachment for the old home. With

the limited school facilities of their days, they received but slight education, yet doubtless all could read and write. The scripture names they bore indicate their parents were christians and lovers of the Bible, and trained their children to walk in the paths they themselves had followed. They were a hardy race, sturdy workers, seldom sick, and all lived to near or beyond the Psalmist's allotted span of life. None of them accumulated any considerable wealth.

JOHN KNIGHT was born in 1772, and died in 1834. He was of English descent, but we do not know in what year his ancestors came to this country. He married, April 9, 1801, ELIZABETH JAMIESON, who was born in 1730, and died in 1853. She was the only one of my grandparents that I ever saw, and I remember her only in the last two or three years of her life, when her time was largely occupied in Knitting. They lived in Delaware, but early in the century moved to Western Pennsylvania, and afterward to near Sandusky, Ohio, where they were during the war of 1812. At one time they were in danger from Indians. Afterward they moved back to Western Pennsylvania, to Fayette county. To them were born four children, as follows:

MARY, born in 1802, died in 1873. (See sketch hereafter).

DRUSILLA, born in 180-, married Samuel Miller, and died in 187-.

LEWIS, born in 180--, married to Margaret West, and died in 183--. His widow died in July, 1892.

ISAAC, born in 180--, married to Betsy Langley, and died in 187--.

All of these children passed their lives in Fayette county, and to each a large family was born.

MOSES MILLER and MARY KNIGHT were married June 12, 1823, in Luzerne township, Fayette county, Pa., the officiating minister being Rev. Wm. Johnson, of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Soon after the marriage they purchased a farm on the east bank of Dunlap's creek, in Redstone township, containing 143 acres. It was of irregular shape, the east line being nearly straight, the south line crooked, the west line formed by the creek, and the north line nearly straight. It was originally timb

land, and was "cleared" from time to time. Part of it was bottom land which yielded generously, but the hillsides were rough and stony, and perhaps twenty acres were unfit for cultivation. A vein of coal was under one corner, and a bank was opened in after years. On this farm, after their marriage, they erected a log house one and a half stories high, about 13 x 25 feet in size, with a large stone chimney outside, clapboard shingle roof, the spaces between the logs filled with clay. The fireplace was ample for large logs. In later years this house was burned. About the year 1843 a new house was built some twenty feet east of the old one. It was two stories with a basement kitchen, single porch on one side and double porch on the other, plastered outside as well as inside, and was a comfortable dwelling. It was burned in 1863 or 1864, being probably set on fire by tramps as it was unoccupied at the time.

Moses Miller, like all his brothers and sisters, was of large frame, somewhat spare in flesh, of robust constitution, a hard worker, simple in his tastes and life, and content to remain on his farm. He did not marry until he was thirty-eight years old, and he was in his sixty-first year when his youngest son was born. Under the preaching of the early Cumberland Presbyterian ministers--Morgan, Bryan, Henderson and others--he was converted, and joined the Hopewell congregation of that church, remaining a member until his death. Being of unemotional nature, and reserved in his manner, he never took an active part in church work, but he was a very honest, straightforward man, dealing justly with all. He possessed a common school education and gave his children, as far as possible, the benefits of school and college. The writer, being his youngest child, knew him only in his old age.

In the spring of 1869, he was attacked by dropsy and disease of the heart. He partially recovered, and on the morning of the memorable frost of that year, June 5, he rode about the farm looking at the sad havoc wrought. After that he never left the house, and died on the 2d of July, in his 75th year, and was buried in the Hopewell graveyard.

Mary Knight Miller was in every way a fit helpmeet for her husband. She was seventeen years his junior. Like him she was of large frame, in old age rather fleshy, and excellent housekeeper, a very kind mother though stern in discipline, and punishing without fear or favor. She was a sincere christian, though her household cares kept her very busy--a Martha rather than a Mary. Relatives and neighbors held her in high esteem, and "Aunt Polly" was always a welcome guest. After the death of her husband she remained on the farm with her son, Lewis T., for two years, when in the fall of 1881 she removed, with the writer, to Waynesburg, Greene county, to live with her son, Alfred B., and here she remained until her death, May 4, 1878, in her 76th year. Her last sickness was of few days duration, the powers of nature giving way, and she was carried painlessly to the better land. Her body was buried beside that of her husband.

The following obituary was written by the compiler of this history, and published in The Sac Sun, which he was editing at Sac City, Iowa:

Mary K. Miller died May 4, 1878, at Waynesburg, Pa., of paralysis, aged 76 years. She was born of John and Elisabeth Knight, in Fayette county, Pa., on the Monongahela river, near Geneva, in 1802. Her parents came from Delaware. In 1804 they moved to near Uniontown, in sight of the historic "white rocks." In 1812 they emigrated to Wayne county, Ohio, but three years afterward moved back to Pennsylvania, where they died. June 12, 1823, she was married to Moses Miller. They settled on Dunlap's creek and lived on the same farm until 1859, when the husband and father died, at the age of 74. Two years later she moved to Waynesburg, where she lived until death called her home.

It is with a son's pride, as well as grief, that we write of our mother. She was a woman of strong powers of mind and body. Amid the early settlement of Western Pennsylvania, she lived a life of incessant toil, and in childhood knew the danger from Indians that often harassed the pioneers. Her educational acquirements were necessarily limited, but she possessed the rare common sense which atones for many defects, and which caused her to be respected as well as loved by all who knew her. In a log house, a story and a half high, she bore ten children, two of whom died in infancy, one in early womanhood, and seven remained ~~xx~~ while on earth. We do not recall an unkind word from her, but always a tender guidance, yet balanced by a firm correction which restrained the straying feet. Her endurance and patience were remarkable. She seldom was sick, but was always caring for the sick. She lived to see twenty-one grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In 1838 she joined the Cumberland Presbyterian church, under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Hudson. A merciful Providence spared her last days from suffering. The powers of life gave way together, and with but a few days of quiet lingering she passed peacefully to rest. In the hour of death her strong mind and hope sustained her still, and she cheerfully made the proper arrangements for her departure. What, in this hour of death, can take the place of the hope that yet her spirit lives with

God? In the quiet churchyard at Hopewell her body was laid to rest, between the husband of her youth, and the daughter of sweet and sacred memory. Loving friends and neighbors gathered in reverence of her who, faithful in life, shall be rewarded in death. How blessed shall be thy memory, Dear Mother, to us forever.

The children born to Moses and Mary Miller were as follows:

JOHN WILLIAM, born May 24, 1824. Became a plasterer, but afterward engaged in merchandising, and again returned to his trade. Married Ruth Wood in 1851, and in 1854 moved to Mount Vernon, Ohio. The next year they moved to Burlington, Iowa, and in 1865 to Lincoln, Ill., where they have lived since. John is a man of sturdy character, a sincere christian, quiet in manner, and bids fair to live as long as any of his ancestors. His wife is in every respect an excellent woman, and both are very much respected by those who know them. He died in 1904 and his wife in 1918.

JOHN WOOD, born in 1852, married to Emeline Erickson, and now living at Paxton, Ill., a minister of the Congregational church.

MARY KNIGHT, born in 1858, now living with her parents, and a public school teacher. She has been liberally educated, and is of sweet disposition.

WILLIAM B., born in 1853, married to Addie Thompson, is an attorney at Elwood, Nebraska. (Died in California).

JAMES E., born in 1861, married to Jennie Price, is an attorney at Lincoln, Ill. He has two children, Florence K. and Leland Price Miller.

ALFRED BRASHEAR, born in 1865, married to Ida M. McConnell, is an attorney at Murray, Iowa. He has one son, Alfred M.

SAMUEL LEWIS, born March 5, 1823. Was married to Henrietta Swingler, at Brownsville, Pa., in 1852, by Rev. A. B. Brice. In 1866 they moved to La Salle county, Ill., going by boat most of the way. He entered a farm and followed that business until he retired from active work. His wife died in 1867, and in 1868 he married Rebecca R. Radcliffe, at Upper Middletown, Pa., Rev. Jesse Adams being the officiating minister. He prospered in business and now lives in easy circumstances at Grand Ridge, Ill. He is an elder in the Presbyterian church, has held municipal office in his town, and is honored by all who know him. His wife is active in good works, and an excellent companion. No children have been born to them. Samuel died in July, 1901.

JOSEPH, born October 19, 1827, died in infancy, and was buried in the graveyard attached to the Dmlap's Creek Presbyterian church.

ALFRED BRASHEAR, born Oct. 16, 1828. Educated at the academy at Canrichaels, Pa., and at the college at Waynesburg, Pa., of which latter institution he became president in 1866, and continued until 1869, when he resigned and accepted a professorship. Under him the college, always sadly lacking in funds, owing to the small church (Cumberland Presbyterian) under whose care it is, has yet attained a high rank, is provided with good buildings, and enjoys a large attendance. He is also a minister, was for ten years pastor of the church in his town, and editor of the "Cumberland Presbyterian," being an untiring worker. No other president of a college ever gained more fully the love and confidence of his students. In 1865 he married Margaret K. Bell, at that time and until her death principal of the women's department of the college. She was a woman of rare accomplishments, of stately and beautiful form, which added to her winning manners and self-sacrificing spirit, made her a

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

FROM 1630 TO 1800

BY JAMES B. HARRIS

VOLUME I. FROM 1630 TO 1700

THE CITY OF BOSTON, FROM 1630 TO 1700

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great favorite with her pupils and loved by everyone. She died in 1875, in her 47th year. Alfred died January 30, 1902. To them were born eight children, as follows:

ELIZA CAMPBELL, born Feb. 23, 1853, married in 1877 to Dr. T. P. Simpson, and living at Beaver Falls, Pa.

Lucy Lasear, born Oct. 23, 1857, married in 1882 to Dr. W. M. Beach, and living at Pittsburgh, Pa.

ALBERT BARNES, born May 1, 1860, married in 1879 to Jennie Wilson, and died Feb. 26, 1893. He was a dentist and possessed a keen, bright mind. His wife died in 1900.

Howard Bell, born April 9, 1862. Is a printer and lives with his father at Waynesburg.

Harriet Craft, born Feb. 24, 1865, married in 1889 to W. E. Minor, an attorney, and living at Pittsburgh, Pa.

May, born Feb. 12, 1867, and died June 21, 1883. A very sweet child whose early death brought sorrow to all hearts.

Jessie Knight, born Sept. 23, 1863, married in 1886 to Joseph Maxwell, of Utica, N. Y., and died in the early part of 1900.

Alfred Tennyson, born Sept. 20, 1873, and now living at Waynesburg (or Washington).

All of these children were educated at Waynesburg College.

^{NN}
DRUSILLA ABB, born May 16, 1832. Married in 1861 to John Cunningham, who died in 1894. She now lives at Uniontown, Pa. Like her mother she is strong in body and mind, determined in character, a loving wife and faithful mother. (Died in 1914, Sept. 24)

Six children were born to them, as follows:

JAMES MILLER, born June 3, 1862. Married in 1883 to Sarah C. Must, and lives at Uniontown.

HARRIET MILLER, born March 2, 1864. Died August 30, 1891.

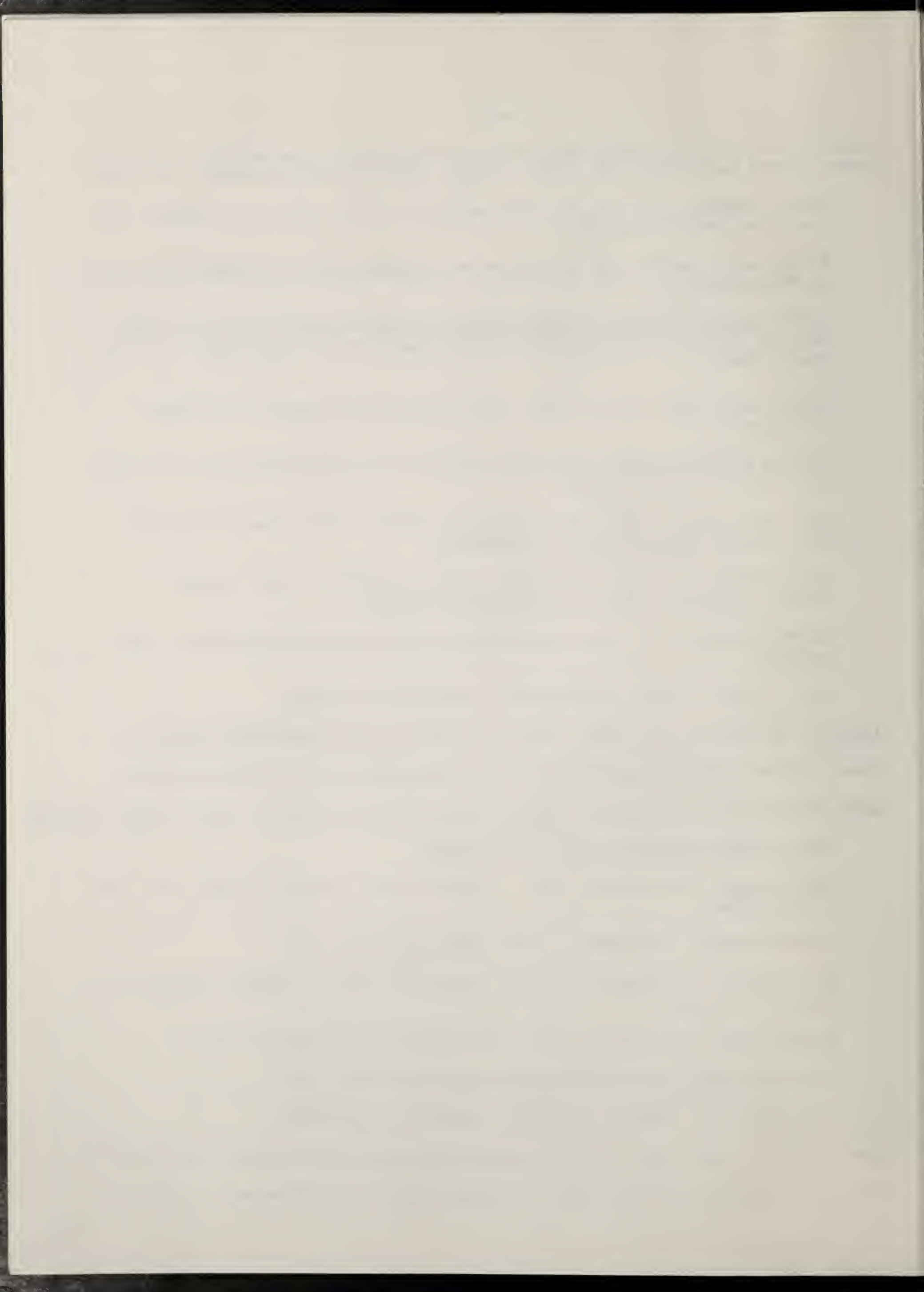
MARY KNIGHT, born December 3, 1866. Married in 1880 to Peter A. Johns, and lives at Uniontown.

WILLIAM BAIRD, born Nov. 5, 1869. Is a soldier in the regular army.

ALFRED BRASHEAR, born March 27, 1875, died August 20, 1894.

ANNA BELLE, born December 19, 1877. Lives with her mother.

LEWIS THOMPSON, born July 1, 1834. Learned the trade of plasterer but has generally followed farming, and later engaged in merchandising. In 1855 he went to La Salle



county, Ill. Returning after the death of his father he managed the home farm until 1863, when he went back to Illinois and in 1864 moved to Lincoln, in that state, where he still lives. He is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, a good citizen, genial in his manners, and a favorite with all who know him. In 1863 he married Lucinda Weirs, a ~~man~~ woman who has proved to be an excellent wife and loving mother, and useful in good works. (Lewis T. died in 1914.)

To them were born two children, as follows:

James G., born October 2, 1867, married in 1899 to Anna Sauer. Is a minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and is now pastor near Cincinnati, O. (Died in 1921).

Annie M., born May 26, 1873, married in 1906 to Samuel Auer, and is living at Macomb, Ill.

AARON, born May 15, 1866, died in infancy, and was buried beside his infant brother, Joseph.

LEROY WOODS, born October 5, 1837. Like his father, he has always been a farmer. In 1859 he married Louise Porter, and in 1862 they moved to La Salle county, Ill. Afterward they moved to Chatsworth, Livingston Co., Ill., where they still live. Leroy is a steady, industrious man and a good citizen, while his wife is equally a helpmeet in all good ways. (Leroy died in 1910 and his wife in 1921). They have one child:

Alfred B., born August 1, 1861. Married in 1883 to Ida Barnum, and lives at Pontiac, Ill. They have three children: Cora R., Ida May, ~~xx~~ Planche H. (and Alfred, a son born later, who was a soldier overseas in the world war).

HARRIET CRAFT, born September 3, 1840. Educated at Haynesburg College, where she graduated in 1862, the second in her class. Engaged in teaching. In the spring of 1865, while teaching at Upper Middletown, Pa., she contracted pneumonia and died in May of that year, her body being buried in the Hopewell graveyard. She was a woman of considerable beauty, possessed of a good mind, of most excellent character, and so sweet in disposition and cordial in manner that she won the hearts of all, and her untimely death was deeply mourned. Probably among all the family she gave the brightest promise.

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JAMES NEWTON, born August 25, 1848. Lived on the farm until the fall of 1861, when he went with his mother to Waynesburg, and entered the college, having previously attended the common schools and Dunlap's Creek academy. On the 23th of July, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company A, 12th Regiment West Virginia Infantry. He took part in the battles of Winchester, Va., June 13-15, 1862, and New Market, Va., May 15, 1864. At the latter battle he was taken prisoner, and was confined in Andersonville and Florence prisons until December 8, 1864, when he was paroled and sent in to the Union lines. He was taken to Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, where he was discharged June 19, 1865, having served almost three years. Being so young and not of robust constitution, his health was poor during most of his service, and he never has been strong.

Returning to Waynesburg he resumed his studies in the college and graduated in 1869. The previous year, having learned the printing trade, he purchased the Waynesburg Republican, and published it until May, 1870, when he sold it and went to Iowa. The next year he located at Sac City, Iowa, and established The Sac Sun, which he edited and published until October 1, 1891. In 1872 he was elected to the Legislature, serving one term. In 1890 he was appointed postmaster by President Harrison, which place he resigned in 1892, and moved to Des Moines to engage in the fire insurance business. In 1893 he was elected a member of the city council of Des Moines. Moved to Oklahoma in 1902, and to Wichita, Kansas, in 1907.

He was married March 29, 1871, to Miss Sue Porter, daughter of Moses and Elizabeth Porter, of Dunbar, Fayette county, Pa., his brother, Rev. A. B. Miller, being the officiating minister. His wife was born July 12, 1845. Was educated at Waynesburg college and graduated in 1867. Afterward engaged in teaching. Is a woman of many accomplishments, excellent character, and in every way a model wife and mother. The parents and children are all members of the Presbyterian church. The children are as follows:

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Mary Blaine, born August 18, 1878, at Sac City, Iowa. Attended the public schools of that place and Des Moines college, from which she graduated in music, and also graduated in music from Iowa college, at Grinnell. In the fall of 1897 she was elected teacher of music in the Baptist college at Sioux Falls, S. D., but resigned at the close of the first term owing to a disruption of the school. In 1899 she was chosen teacher of music and literature of Denmark academy, Denmark, Iowa, which position she filled for two years. She is regarded by all as a woman of excellent character and much promise. Was married in 1901 to William C. Staat. They have lived in Chicago, Wichita and Grinnell.

Beulah Porter, born November 19, 1878, and died December 21, 1878. A sweet little babe who in her brief month on earth won her way to the hearts of parents, sister and friends. Her body was buried at the Hopewell graveyard, in Fayette county, Pa.

James Cuyler, born January 4, 1888. Is now attending the public schools of Des Moines. While of delicate frame, he has generally been free from sickness, and is faithful and efficient in his studies and duties. He was married in 1909, at Wichita, Kansas, to Gertrude Stough. Two children have been born to them; Virginia, born October 8, 1911, and James Stough, born November 20, 1913. Later the family moved to Eads, Colorado.

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August 28, 1931

Mr. J. Wood Miller,
920 Belden Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

We are pleased to have the typewritten
"History of the Miller Family", and will place it with
other typescripts and manuscripts which we have gathered
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Yours very truly,

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